



## **INTRODUCTION TO WORK-BASED LEARNING FOR RISK MANAGEMENT**

It is important for career and technical education program coordinators, counselors, principals, central administrators and educators to be familiar with the risks involved when students participate in work-based learning programs. Risks can be multi-faceted and must not be narrowly construed. The profusion of pupil accounting regulations, child labor laws, increased safety regulations, issues of liability, and workers' compensation all give rise to many risk management questions that must be addressed when placing students at worksites.

Legal liability varies by industry sectors and insurance needs are specific to the type of program activities. Consequently, risk management strategies need to be jointly developed between schools, school district coordinators, work-site supervisors, business owners and students. A Work-Based Learning Guide for Risk Management has been developed to assist school district staff with consistent directions and procedures for designing and implementing appropriate solutions when students are placed in work-site situations.

Work-Based Learning for Risk Management Workshops are sponsored by the Michigan Department of Career Development, Office of Career and Technical Preparation. These workshops provide extensive law and policy information from the national and state levels. Additionally, participants receive training and materials that can be tailored for individual districts as a guide for staff to identify potential problems and to assist with consistent guidelines, work related forms, resources, and procedures for developing solutions. For information relating to these workshops, please contact Karen Pohja, Work-Based Learning/Risk Management Consultant at 517.335.0381 or [pohjak@michigan.gov](mailto:pohjak@michigan.gov).